



November 24, 2021

To: Planning and Housing Committee

re: PH29.3 Recommended Parking Requirements for New Development

I support the recommended modifications to the current standards for automobile and bicycle parking to better manage auto dependency, presented in the report “*Recommended Parking Requirements for New Development*”.

Transportation touches virtually all aspects of our lives: the past automobile-dominated century enabled unprecedented urban growth, economic development and social engagement, but negatively affected the environment, public health, and social equity. We built our cities, and thus our lives, to facilitate travel by personal automobiles but, as noted in the recent Toronto Region Board of Trade report, *Next Stop*, we cannot realize our climate, equity and economic growth goals without reducing our auto dependency. We cannot achieve Council's target for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 without reducing our auto dependency.

The recommendations in this report, to reduce parking minimums in new developments to manage the parking supply and growing the bike share system are steps in the right direction.

Removing parking minimums from new developments is an example of a “push strategy” that makes car driving less attractive by making it more expensive or less convenient. Acquiring new bike share stations and bike share bicycles, that make cycling more attractive, is an example of a “pull strategy”. Generally, push strategies are more effective than pull strategies, but we need both, and we need more. The proposed strategies to manage the parking supply are an excellent beginning that will move the City of Toronto towards its goals of achieving net zero emissions and building more sustainable and healthy communities.

Researchers at the University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute believe that mobility in this “First Urban Century” must enable all people to achieve their potential while protecting our planet and are eager to support the City of Toronto on this journey.

Sincerely,

Dr. Judy Farvolden
PhD, PEng, MScPl
Executive Director
University of Toronto Transportation Research Institute
judy.farvolden@utoronto.ca
416-910-6763